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To: Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham

via: Carol Hanlon  
US DOE  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P. O. Box 30307  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Mr. Abraham:

I am a retired Mechanical Engineer with considerable interest in the Yucca Mountain site as a repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste. During recent trips to Las Vegas during the past 5 years, I have visited the site 3 times and have observed the progress of the degree of scientific investigation that has been conducted to assure the site is a satisfactory location and the design concepts are practical.

While employed at Sandia Corporation as a development engineer early in 1950's I had the opportunity to visit the Nevada Test Site, south of Yucca Mountain and North of Las Vegas. Two years ago I also took a government sponsored tour of the test site to learn more about the entire issues of this area of Nevada as a repository. In my opinion, the issue of the remains of the underground tests of nuclear experiments are more of a concern than the storage plan at Yucca Mountain.

I favor the continued development of Yucca Mountain as a storage repository. The site is very remote with minimum impact upon local population. The distance from Las Vegas is a factor that renders it relatively safe from possible hazards. With the right advertising, the entire project can become one of the sights for the visitors to the area.

The 77 or so temporary storage sites at the sources of the waste material around the United States are now exceeding their storage capacity. Possible accidental release of radioactivity due to natural hazards at each of these locations continue to increase.

The Yucca Mountain solution to this storage problem must be approved. This will perhaps allow additional nuclear plants to be constructed. The burning of fossil fuel effects on the ozone layer of the earth is affecting our entire climate. Lake Erie, for example, is now at a very extreme low water level due to the lack of rain and snow in the Great Lakes area. Can this be the result of the Greenhouse Effect? Negative effects of lake shipping and recreational use of the Lake Erie is increasingly apparent each year.

Lower water levels of Lake Erie could also threaten the electric power capacity of the hydroelectric generating stations at the Niagara area in Western New York State and adjacent Canada. Without water, these plants will not generate, thus adding to the demand on the national power grid system to feed the Northeast part of the United States and Canada.

Natural gas is another fuel that gaining popularity for electric power generation. This past winter our budget cost for home gas use for heating the months March through June increased from \$42 to \$100, or 238%. Is there adequate pipeline capacity and natural gas generating facilities to offset the electric power demand when the nuclear plants become obsolete?

Nuclear power generation capacity in the nation is now fixed and no new plants are under consideration for the future. How will the shortfall of electric power generation be accommodated when the present nuclear plants wear out?

We must approve Yucca Mountain as the official site for storage. With this decision approved, perhaps more nuclear plants will be constructed, thus assuring the future of the entire nuclear power industry and reduce the need for expansion of other forms of power generation.

In the long run, it will be federal rights over states rights. The federal rights should override the states rights as the entire population of the United States will be see the results of declining nuclear power generation capacity.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edmund G. Janssen". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a large initial 'E'.

Edmund G. Janssen. PE, St of Ohio, BSME, Class of 1951, IIT.